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1951

TO: Deputy Director for Plans
Attention [redacted] 25X1A9a

FROM: Assistant Director for Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Financial Support for The Current Digest of the Soviet Press

REFERENCES: (a) Letter from [redacted] 25X1A5a1
25X1A5a1 [redacted], to the Director of Central Intelligence, same subject, dated 2 May 1951
(b) Letter from [redacted] to the 25X1A5a1
Director of Central Intelligence, same subject, dated 7 June 1951
(c) Letter from the Director of Central Intelligence to [redacted] 25X1A5a1
same subject, dated 13 June 1951
(d) Memorandum from the Assistant Director for Research and Reports to the Assistant Directors for National Estimates, Policy Coordination, Current Intelligence, Scientific Intelligence, and Collection and Dissemination, same subject, 25 June 1951

1. Inquiry conducted by ORR among the offices of CIA indicates that, regardless of the existence of the IAC-supported Joint /British-American/ Press Reading Service in Moscow, OCI, ONE, and OPC consider The Current Digest of the Soviet Press to be of sufficient over-all intelligence value to them to justify CIA financial support. OSI does not find The Digest to be of sufficient value for its specific purposes to justify support from its point of view, but will not oppose support of The Digest if other offices believe such aid justified. FDD, OO, is expected to oppose support on the grounds that The Digest is not geared primarily to intelligence needs and that the Joint Press Reading Service and the FDD Economic Reports combined not only perform specific intelligence functions but also make available the information which appears in The Digest. OCD concurs with the opinions expressed by FDD with respect to the general intelligence usefulness of The Digest, and, although believing that CIA should not give major financial support to that publication, it considers, with the understanding that The Digest holds certain peripheral values for the research offices of CIA, that some small support might be in order.

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2. On the basis of the several views indicated above, it is recommended that CIA provide support for The Digest for one year (1 February 1952 - 31 January 1953) in the amount of $20,500, with review at the end of that period to determine the advisability of further support.

3. No office consulted indicated a desire to place a member of CIA on the staff of The Digest.

4. If so directed, ORR, will draft a formal statement requesting that CIA support The Digest, for presentation to the Project Review Committee.

FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

25X1A9a

[redacted]

Acting Deputy Assistant Director
Research and Reports

25X1A9a

D/R: ORR: [redacted]

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